

## WHO APPROACH

### **Awa Aidara-Kane**

Coordinator, Foodborne and Zoonotic Diseases, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, World Health Organization (WHO), 20 Avenue Appia 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

The following two initiatives are involved in WHO capacity building activities for integrated surveillance antimicrobial resistance. The Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN) and the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR):

– The strategic objective of Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN) is to support WHO Member States' capacity to strengthen national and regional integrated surveillance, investigation, prevention and control of foodborne and other enteric infections, including antimicrobial resistance by:

1. strengthening capacities of National Reference Laboratories and other laboratories in surveillance of foodborne pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance through international training courses, an external quality assurance programme, and laboratory support (lab manuals, reference testing, reagents, collaborative research projects),
2. establishing centers of excellence for specialised training and consultation,
3. fostering collaboration among microbiologists and epidemiologists in public health, veterinary and food-related disciplines,
4. enhancing reporting of AMR data through a web-based country databank.

– WHO AGISAR was instituted to provide guidance to the WHO for containment of food related antimicrobial resistance and enhance collaboration on harmonisation and AMR data sharing across sectors and among WHO Member countries, on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AGISAR Capacity building activities includes development of guidance documents for monitoring AMR in zoonotic enteric bacteria, including appropriate sampling, monitoring of antimicrobial usage in humans and animals, data management and risk communication.

GFN and AGISAR are implementing country pilot projects to promote continued development and application of AGISAR guidance documents as well as protocols and techniques learned at WHO/GFN international training courses. These projects contribute in addressing the lack of data from developing countries; they also provide a scientific foundation for sustaining surveillance in a developing nation.

